

Pickens Museum of Art and History
Foundation Board Meeting
March 13, 2023

Tabitha Johnson called the meeting to order; in attendance were Jeanne Gilstrap and Ginger Hicks. Tabitha provided the financial update, relaying that she has been added to the two-signature check writing process and reporting that the balance is \$15,685.18, which reflects the \$3000 resulting from the sponsorship with TriCounty Technical College for Youth Arts Month. The museum used a portion of that funding for new promotional banners that had TriCounty Tech as a sponsor, per the agreement with them. A deposit of \$29 was made to our account that developed from an excess of funds in our PayPal account. The Museum paid \$125 to Susan Stancil for the People's Choice Award during the Juried Arts Show. Upcoming expenditures include \$1645 in prizes for Youth Art Month.

In terms of Youth Art Month, the SDPPC art teachers will deliver pieces of student work on March 24. Prizes will be awarded to high school and middle school students at the reception on April 20 from 6-7 PM. Other receptions will be held for two attendance areas a night; on April 25, the Easley and Daniel attendance areas are invited, and, on April 27, attendees will be from the Liberty and Pickens attendance areas. Tri-County Technical College included \$600 for the framing of 24 works as part of its sponsorship. The idea of food at the April 20 reception was discussed, but more information in terms of cost is needed for a decision.

Tabitha noted that the county paid for the museum's membership to the American Association for State and Local History.

Tabitha provided an update on the renovations to the upstairs galleries. The upper exhibit area is complete with wood flooring, new lighting and wall treatment. Following the Youth Art Month Exhibit, the upstairs gallery will undergo renovations. This exciting renovation will greatly enhance our museum. The internet in the building is extremely spotty; the county is waiting for Blue-Ridge's new internet push address this lack.

In terms of new business, Tabitha reported that the gift shop now has a business license. Tabitha is in the process of identifying which items in the inventory may still be on consignment.

Tabitha continues to digitize the museum's collection holdings.

The number of visitors to the museum has increased: This February's numbers are 410 versus 148 visitors in February 2022. Tabitha notes that she is working to expand our "footprint" in the Upstate by forging contacts with regional newspapers and other advertising venues, providing weekly posts on the museum's Facebook page that had over 700 engagements over the past month, and opening the museum to host civic groups.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be on Monday, April 10, 2023, at 3:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ginger Hicks, Secretary

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